

Early Learning Is Important



New research has led to important discoveries of how the brain develops. By the time a baby is born, he or she will have 100 billion brain cells. These brain cells are not yet connected in networks necessary for learning. Through a variety of experiences, the networks develop and the brain is literally wired for learning.

A child's early experiences are critical to the learning process because brain development is nonstop. This is one reason why quality child care is so important.

Caregivers Play An Important Part

Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. But today, statistics show that children are spending more time in child care programs than ever before. Parents and caregivers both play an important role in the development of children.

Whether the caregiver is a relative, neighbor or child care provider, the person responsible for direct child care is shaping the experiences that encourage the brain to develop. Every caregiver is a potential source of love, learning, comfort and stimulation. Research has shown that children who receive nurturing care in quality early childhood programs have a better chance at learning success.



SD Promotes Early Learning

To improve the quality of infant and toddler care, the South Dakota Department of Social Services' Office of Child Care Services has created the Infant/Toddler Training Program. The program is part of the Early Childhood Enrichment training delivery system.

Through a Bush Foundation grant, 100 individuals from South Dakota attended intensive training sessions on the care and development of infants and toddlers. Sessions were taught by West Ed of California, a nonprofit research and development agency dedicated to improving education and opportunities for children.

These 100 individuals now provide training sessions for child care providers and parents in their local communities across the state. The curriculum consists of four modules which cover topic areas including:

- Language and Development
- Fostering Emotional Development
- Routines
- Planning the Environment
- Group Care
- Establishing Partnerships with Parents

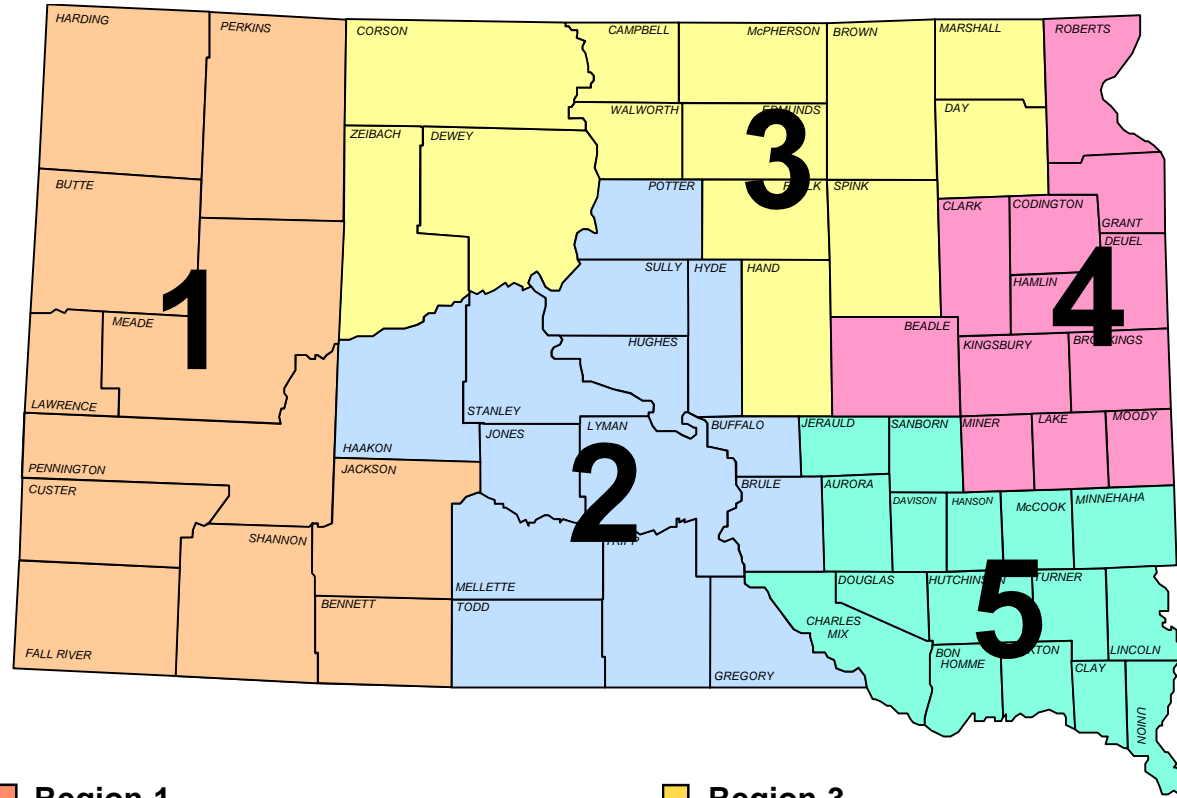


South Dakota Needs Infant/Toddler Training

- S.D. has the highest percentage of working mothers in the nation.
- Children are entering child care settings at an earlier age.
- Infant/toddler group settings have unique challenges.
- The first three years of a child's life have a dramatic impact on brain development.

For more information or if you are interested in attending a training session, see the back of this brochure for the contact person in your area.

Early Childhood Enrichment Programs



Region 1
Early Childhood Connections
700 Sheridan Lake Road, Suite C
Rapid City, SD 57702
342-6464 or 1-888-999-7759
Fax 394-0153 Email:
ecconn@rapidnet.com

Region 2
Pierre Area Referral Service
633 E. Sioux Ave., Suite 3
Pierre, SD 57501
224-8731 or 1-800-499-4767

Region 5
C.H.I.L.D. Services of South Dakota's
Children
Sioux Valley Hospital & University Medical
Center
1115 West 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Region 3
Early Childhood Partners at Presentation
College
1500 North Main
Aberdeen, SD 57401
229-8505 or 1-800-982-6404
Fax: 229-8556 Email:
early@presentation.edu

Region 4
Family Resource Network
HDCFS Dept. Box 2218 – SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007

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social/ccs/ccshome](http://www.state.sd.us/social/ccs/ccshome)



Child Care Services
1-800-227-3020

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**South Dakota
Infant/Toddler
Training Program**



**ALL
BABIES
COUNT**

Department of Social Services
Child Care Services